IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NETSOC, LLC,)
Plaintiff,)
	Civil Action No
v.)
)
YAHOO! INC.) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendant.)

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

NetSoc, LLC ("NetSoc") files this Original Complaint and demand for jury trial seeking relief from patent infringement of the claims of U.S. Patent No. 9,978,107 by Yahoo! Inc., alleging as follows:

I. THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff NetSoc is a Texas Limited Liability Company with its principal place of business located in Harris County, Texas.
- 2. On information and belief, Yahoo! Inc. ("Yahoo") is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with a principal place of business located at 229 West 43rd Street, New York, New York 10036. Yahoo may be served through its registered agent Corporation Service Company at 80 State St., Albany, New York 12207-2541. On information and belief, Yahoo sells and offers to sell products and services throughout New York, including in this judicial district, and introduces products and services that perform infringing methods or processes into the stream of commerce knowing that they would be sold in New York and this judicial district.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. This Court has original subject-matter jurisdiction over the entire action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because Plaintiff's claim arises under an Act of Congress relating to patents, namely, 35 U.S.C. § 271.
- 4. This Court also has original subject-matter jurisdiction over the entire action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1) because Plaintiff is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Texas and Defendant is a Delaware Corporation with a principal, physical place of business at 229 West 43rd Street, New York, New York 10036. The matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because: (i) Defendant is present within or has minimum contacts within the State of Texas and this judicial district; (ii) Defendant has purposefully availed itself of the privileges of conducting business in the State of New York and in this judicial district; and (iii) Plaintiff's cause of action arises directly from Defendant's business contacts and other activities in the State of New York and in this judicial district.
- 6. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(b). Defendant has committed acts of infringement and has a regular and established place of business in this District. Further, venue is proper because Defendant conducts substantial business in this forum, directly or through intermediaries, including: (i) at least a portion of the infringements alleged herein; and (ii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct and/or deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to individuals in New York and this District.

III. INFRINGEMENT ('107 Patent)

- 7. On May 22, 2018, U.S. Patent No. 9,978,107 ("the '107 patent", attached as Exhibit A) entitled "Method and System for Establishing and Using a Social Network to Facilitate People in Life Issues" was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. NetSoc, LLC owns the '107 patent by assignment.
- 8. The '107 patent relates generally to a method and system for establishing and using a social network to facilitate people in life issues.
- 9. Yahoo maintains, operates, and administers a website at www.yahoo.com that infringes one or more claims of the '107 patent, including at least claims 1-11, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant put the inventions claimed by the '107 Patent into service (i.e., used them); but for Defendant's actions, the claimed-inventions embodiments involving Defendant's products and services would never have been put into service. Defendant's acts complained of herein caused those claimed-invention embodiments as a whole to perform, and Defendant's procurement of monetary and commercial benefit from it.
- 10. Support for the allegations of infringement may be found in the following preliminary table:

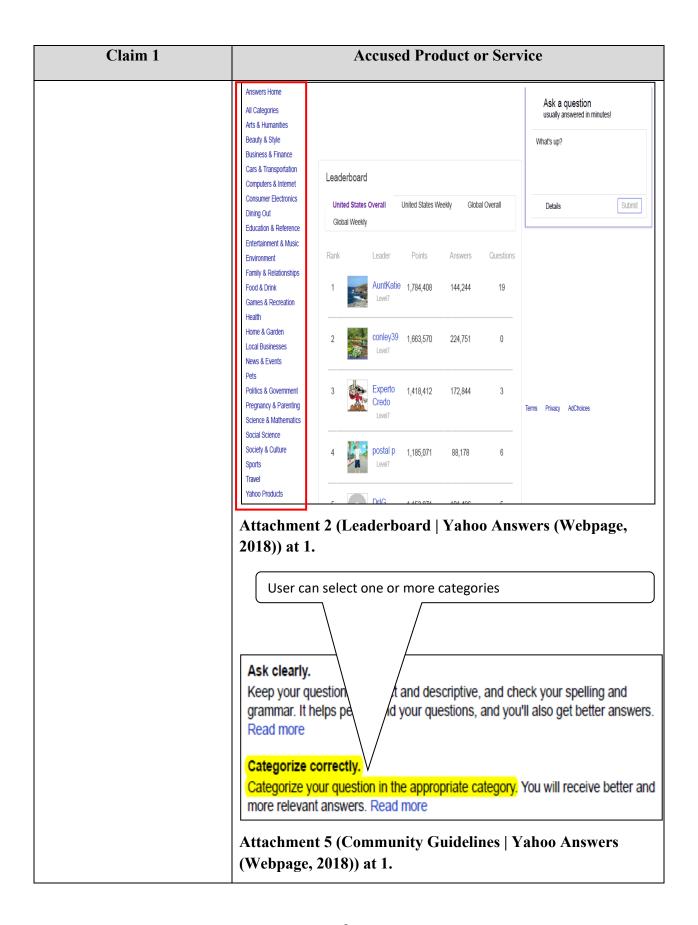
Claim 1	Accused Product or Service
1. A method for establishing a social network, the method comprising:	Plaintiff contends that Yahoo! Answers Service offers a method of social network.

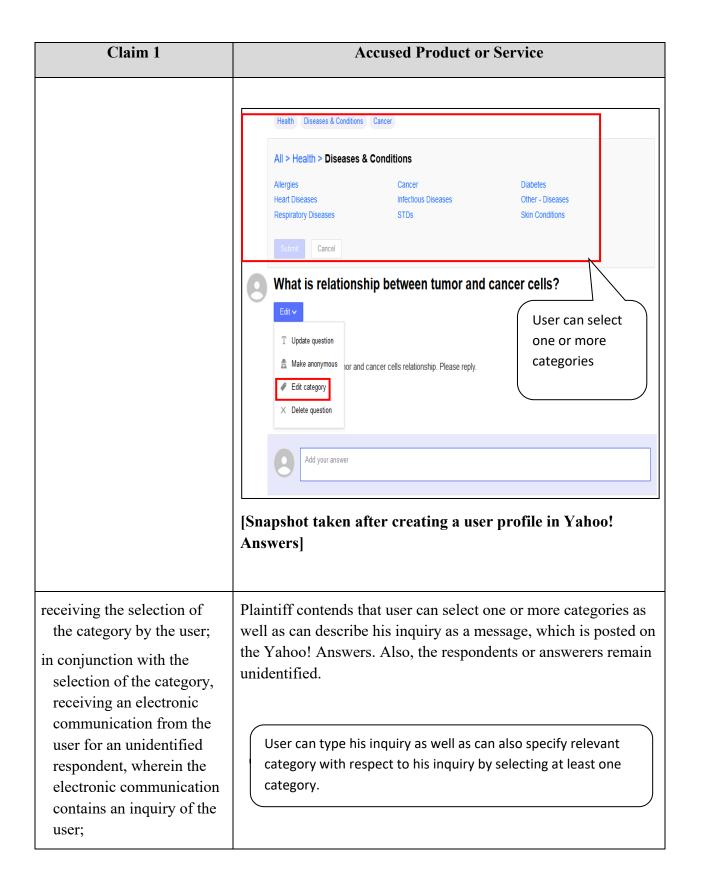
Claim 1	Accused Product or Service
	Knowledge Sharing in the Online Social Network of Yahoo! Answers and Its Implications Haiying Shen*, Senior Member, IEEE, Ze Li, Jinwei Liu, Joseph Edward Grant Abstract—Question and Answer (Q&A) websites such as Yahoo! Answers provide a platform where users can post questions and receive answers. These systems take advantage of the collective intelligence of users to find information. In this paper, we analyze the online social network (OSN) in Yahoo! Answers. Based on a large amount of our collected data, we studied the Attachment 1 (Knowledge Sharing in the Online Social Network of Yahoo! Answers and Its Implications (2014)) at 1.
maintaining a list comprising a plurality of participants, wherein each participant in the plurality of participants corresponds to one or more individuals, wherein the list also includes information associated with at least one of each participant or the one or more individuals that correspond to each participant;	Plaintiff contends that with the help of data-centers or servers, Yahoo maintains data of plurality of participants or individuals along with their information. Yahoo! kicks off US\$500m data center consolidation Yahoo! kicks off US\$500m data center consolidation Yahoo! kicks off US\$500m data center consolidation Yahoo! (URL=http://www.yahoo.com) is revamping its entire data center infrastructure. The company is investing more than \$500m in new data center construction on three continents, its VP of operations Scott Noteboom announced at the DatacenterDynamics New York 2011 conference (URL=http://www.datacenterdynamics.com/conferences/2011/new-york) on Thursday, 10 March. Many of the new data centers will be built to the next generation of Yahoo!'s data center design called Flex Tier Data Center. The multi-tier design promises to reduce construction time to five months per phase, lower cost to \$3m-\$5m per 1MW and provide higher uptime for critical applications. Attachment 3 (Yahoo! kicks off US\$500m data center consolidation News DatacenterDynamics (Webpage, 2011)) at 1 and 2. Yahoo stores and maintains a list of its participants or customers along with their associated information.

Claim 1			Accused	Product or	Service	
	Unite	erboard ed States (al Weekly	Overall	United States W	eekly Globa	al Overall
	Rank		Leader	Points	Answers	Questions
	1		AuntKatie Level7	1,784,408	144,244	19
	2		conley39 Level7	1,663,570	224,751	0
	3		Experto Credo Level7	1,418,412	172,844	3
	4		postal p Level7	1,185,071	88,178	6
	5	9	DrIG Level7	1,153,871	101,496	5
	6		nas88car(Level7	1,083,434	101,251	464

Claim 1		Accused	Product or	Service	
		Loru ;			
	23	magnumg Level 7	748,566	60,069	3
	24	Peter S Level 7	734,061	43,328	3
	25	redunicon Level 7	721,090	66,333	64
	26	fhotoace Level 7	719,825	739	4
	27	Yahzmin ▼▼ 4ever Level 7	669,625	76,666	121
	28	Mr. Smartypa Level 7	653,017	82,086	22
	29	Roger the Mole Level 7	642,652	79,789	8
	Attachmer 2018)) at 1	nt 2 (Leaderboa and 2.	rd Yahoo	Answers (W	ebpage,

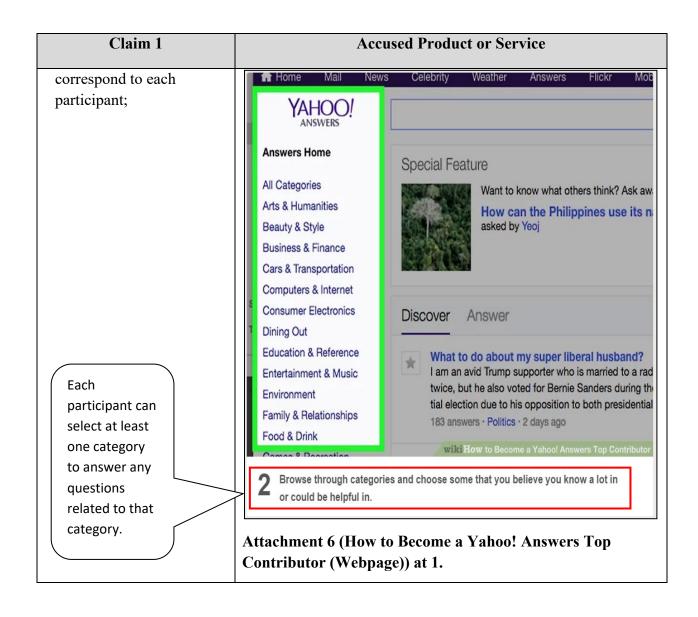
Claim 1	Accused Product or Service Information associated with each participant or individual is stored or maintained.			
	Naguru Level 7			
	806,384 28% 143,576 14 Points Best Answers Answers Questions			
	About Naguru: I am 70 (in 2012) retired from Indian Central Government Service. We have a family background in Vedic knowledge, philosophy, mental health, social service, psychology, religion, yoga, music, Bhajan, etc. Such things are running in our blood and nerves. Following my family tradition, I also keep updating myself and trying to make use of my knowledge, time, influence, energy and resources for higher pursuits. I want to invest in lot of good-will. And my motto is 'Be Good and Do Good'. I am General Secretary of our Colony Senior Citizens Daycare & Welfare Association. Mind and its peculiarities are my favorite subjects. My oft repeated quote is "Bring maximum happiness to maximum number of people for maximum time". show less			
	Questions Answers More Can knowledge be transferred or transmitted - OR - Knowledge comes out of learning and practice alone? R & S, Philosophy Section people may be able to throw some light. 30 answers · Indonesia · 5 years ago			
	Why I am getting such notice? Sorry, we couldn't find who you were looking for This person may not exist, there may be a problem with the link or **gulp** their account has been suspended. 14 answers · Do It Yourself (DIY) · 7 years ago			
	Attachment 4 (Questions Yahoo Answers (Webpage, 2018)) at 1.			
presenting a user with a plurality of categories from which the user may make a selection of a category from the plurality of categories;	Plaintiff contends that user (or asker) is presented with plurality of categories from which the user can select one or more categories.			

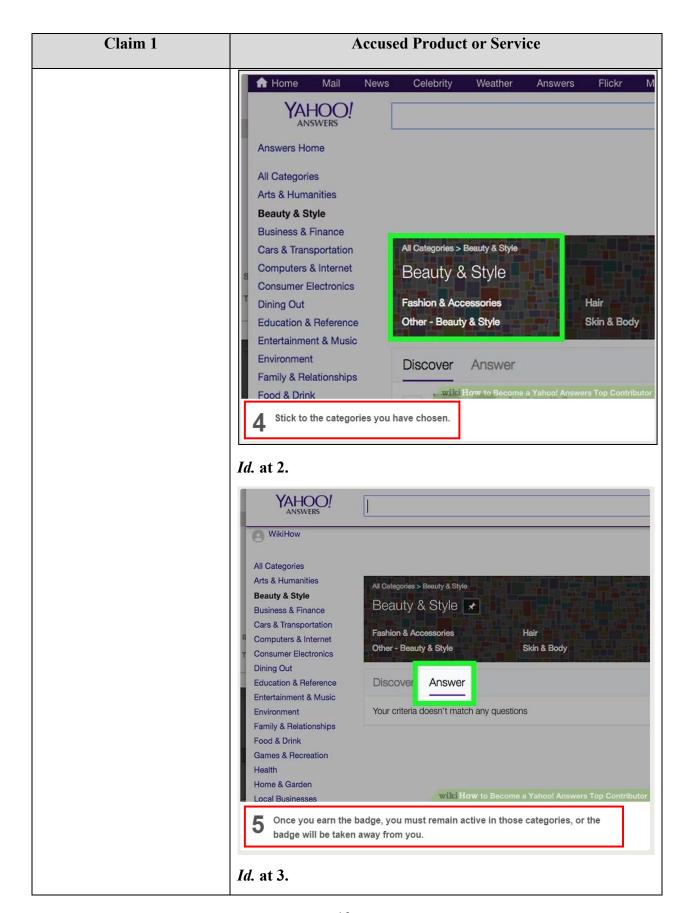


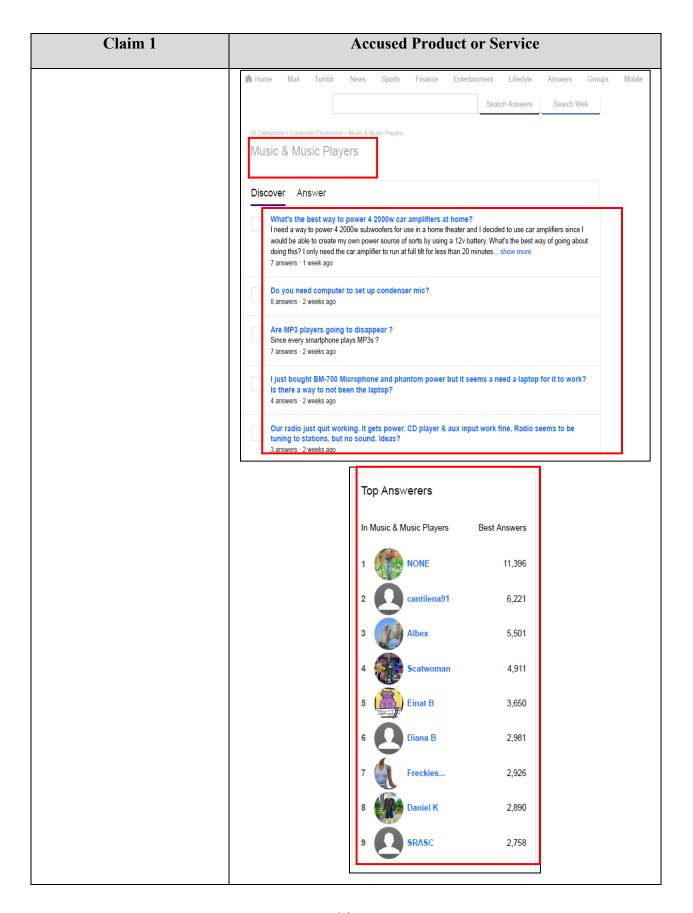




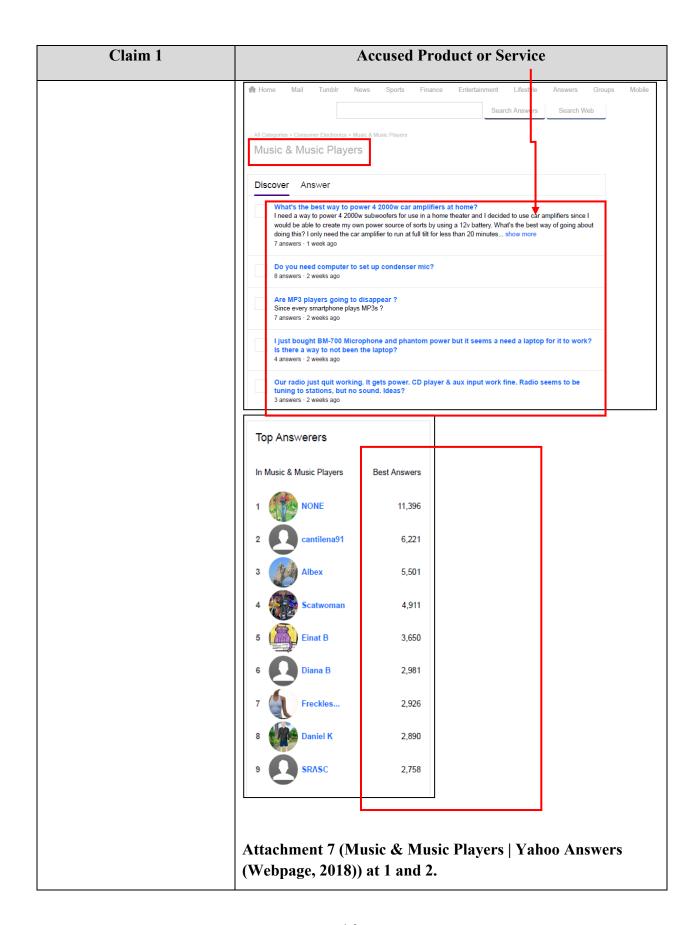




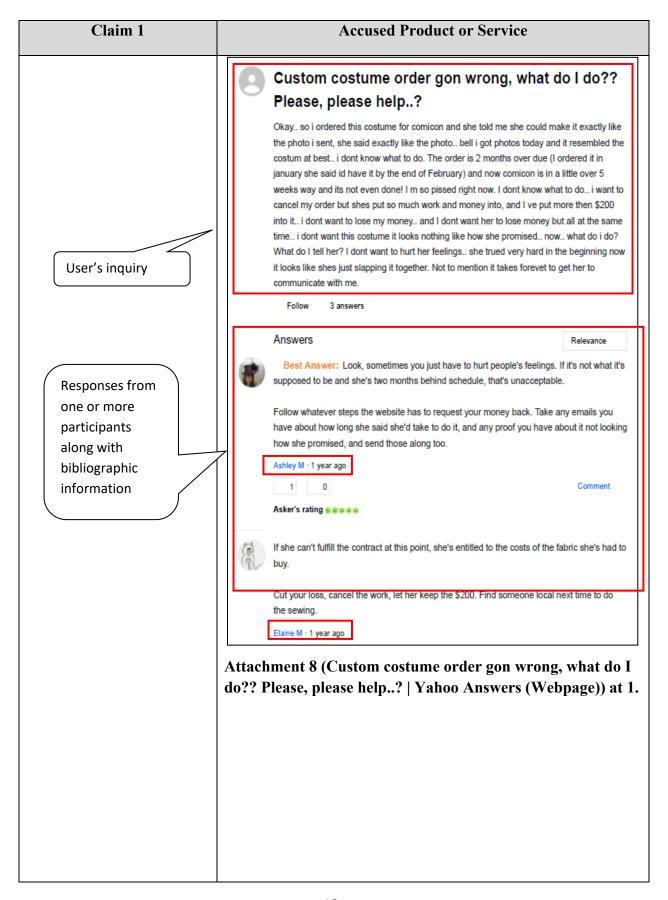




Claim 1	Accused Product or Service
	Attachment 7 (Music & Music Players Yahoo Answers (Webpage, 2018)) at 1 and 2.
	Based on the selection of category or participant information (that is, category interests), one or more participants are shortlisted so that they can view user's inquiry or question.
sending the inquiry to the selected one or more participants;	Plaintiff contends that in case of Yahoo! Answers, user's inquiry is shared with one or more participants. User's inquiry is shared with one or more participants



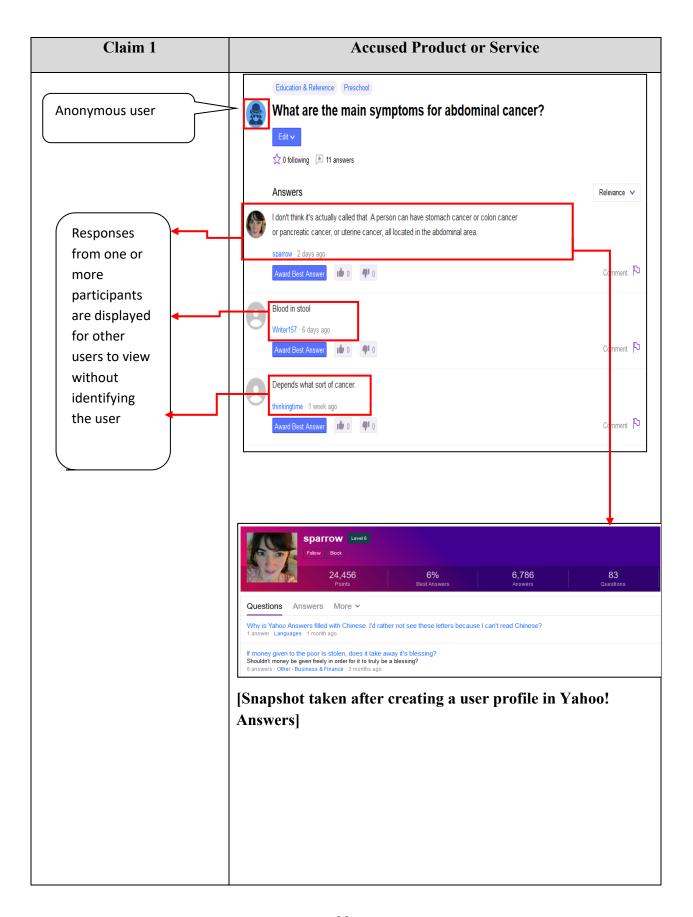
Claim 1 **Accused Product or Service** receiving a response to the Plaintiff contends that one or more participants can responds to inquiry from the selected the user's inquiry. Each participant's biographical information is one or more participants, also shared along with the response. the response from each of the one or more participants including biographical information 100 about that participant; · 11 hours ago 910 Add your answer 2 next Begin answering in categories. Give honest, well researched, and well thought out answers. Attachment 6 (How to Become a Yahoo! Answers Top Contributor (Webpage)) at 2.



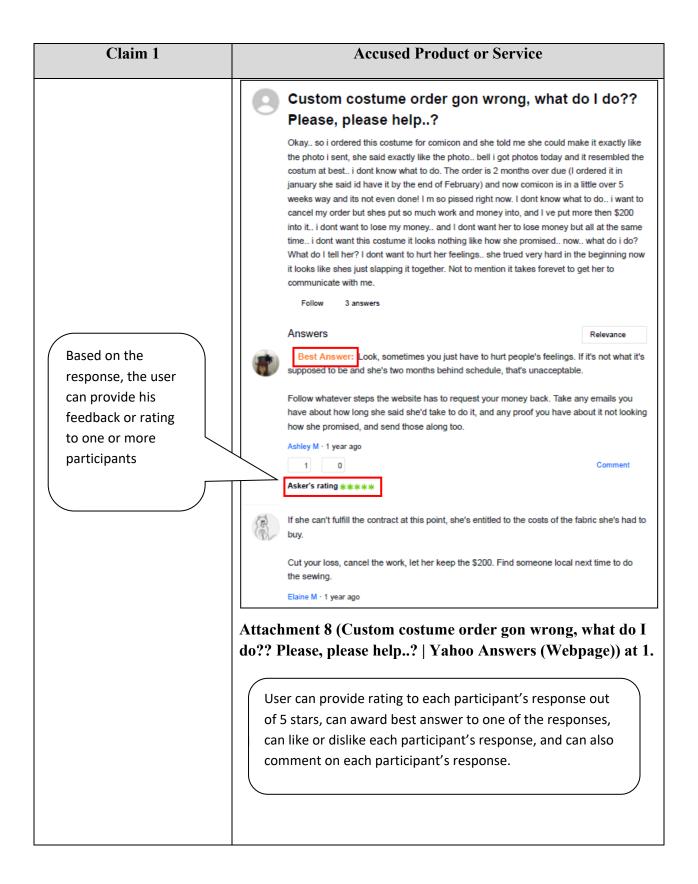
Claim 1	Accused Product or Service
	Participant's bibliographic information
	Ashley M Level 7 381,271 39% 55,340 569 Points Best Answers Answers Questions
	About Ashley M: I love Yahoo Answers. I try to be completely fair and honest even if I know that my answer may not be liked by everyone. I don't claim to be right 100% of the time, but I do like to think that my honesty and frankness does more good than bad. show less Questions Answers More
	How do they make eye glasses for small children? Specifically, how do they determine what prescription the child needs? Because older children an adults can do the "better, or worse" thingbut what about the infants you see with glasses, or children who don't talk yet, or wouldn't understand what's being asked of them in the "better or worse?" situation? 2 answers · Optical · 2 years ago
	I'd like to learn the basics of programming and coding, please help? I'm aware that learning programming and coding is a lengthy process, and there's LOTS of different languages to learn. I know there are kits out there designed to teach kids the basics, and they wind up building an actual little program or something in the process. So what I'm wondering, is there something like that for adults who are show more 4 answers · Programming & Design · 2 years ago
	Attachment 9 (Questions Yahoo Answers (Webpage)) at 1.

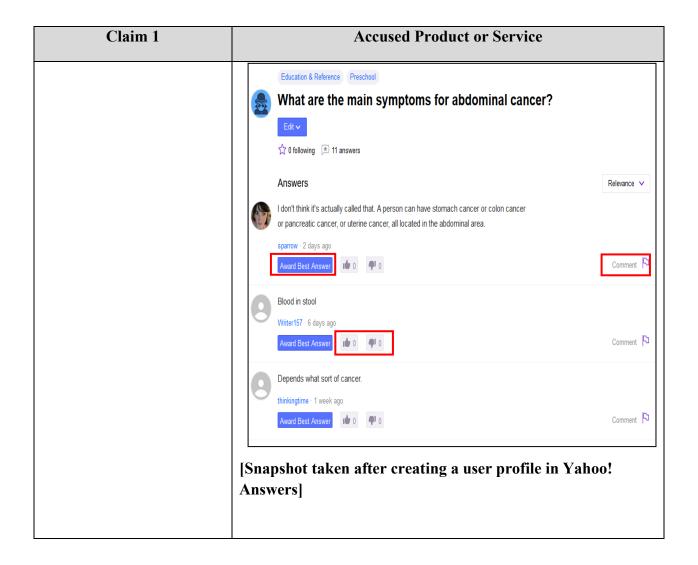
Claim 1	Accused Product or Service			
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	About Naguru: I am 70 (in 2012) retired from Indian Central Government Service. We have a family background in Vedic knowledge, philosophy, mental health, social service, psychology, religion, yoga, music, Bhajan, etc. Such things are running in our blood and nerves. Following my family tradition, I also keep updating myself and trying to make use of my knowledge, time, influence, energy and resources for higher pursuits. I want to invest in lot of good-will. And my motto is 'Be Good and Do Good'. I am General Secretary of our Colony Senior Citizens Daycare & Welfare Association. Mind and its peculiarities are my favorite subjects. My oft repeated quote is "Bring maximum happiness to maximum number of people for maximum time". show less			
	Questions Answers More Can knowledge be transferred or transmitted - OR - Knowledge comes out of learning and practice alone? R & S, Philosophy Section people may be able to throw some light. 30 answers · Indonesia · 5 years ago			
	Why I am getting such notice? Sorry, we couldn't find who you were looking for This person may not exist, there may be a problem with the link or **gulp** their account has been suspended. 14 answers · Do It Yourself (DIY) · 7 years ago			
	Attachment 4 (Questions Yahoo Answers (Webpage, 2018)) at 1.			
publishing at least a portion of the response from each of the selected one or more participants for other users to view, wherein publishing is performed without identifying the user but includes providing biographical information about the participant who provided the response;	Plaintiff contends that a portion of response from each participant is published for other users to view. In Yahoo! Answers, user can anonymously post his inquiry (by selecting option "Make anonymous") in which case user's identity remains hidden. However, the biographical information of one or more participants who provided the responses can be viewed.			





Claim 1	Accused Product or Service			
	Example of biographical information			
	Ashley M Level 7 381,271 39% 55,340 569 Questions About Ashley M: I love Yahoo Answers. I try to be completely fair and honest even if I know that my answer may not be liked by everyone. I don't claim to be right 100% of the time, but I do like to think that my honesty and frankness does more good than bad. show less			
	Questions Answers More How do they make eye glasses for small children? Specifically, how do they determine what prescription the child needs? Because older children an adults can do the "better, or worse" thingbut what about the infants you see with glasses, or children who don't talk yet, or wouldn't understand what's being asked of them in the "better or worse?" situation? 2 answers · Optical · 2 years ago I'd like to learn the basics of programming and coding, please help? I'm aware that learning programming and coding is a lengthy process, and there's LOTS of different languages to learn. I know there are kits out there designed to teach kids the basics, and they wind up building an actual little program or something in the process. So what I'm wondering, is there something like that for adults who are show more 4 answers · Programming & Design · 2 years ago			
tracking feedback for each of the selected one or more participants based at	Attachment 9 (Questions Yahoo Answers (Webpage)) at 1. Plaintiff contends that feedback for each participant is tracked based on the provided response. That is, user can provide rating to at least one of the selected one or more participants.			
least in part on the published portion of the response, including determining a rating from the user for at least one of the selected one or more participants.	In case of Yahoo! Answers, user can provide ratings out of 5 stars to one or more participants based on their responses and can award "Best Answer" to one of the responses. Besides, the user also has options to "Like" or "Dislike" the response of each participant or can provide his comment on each participant's response.			





- These allegations of infringement are preliminary and are therefore subject to change.
- 11. Yahoo has and continues to induce infringement. Yahoo has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., question and answer services on the Internet] and related services that provide question and answer services across the Internet such as to cause infringement of claims 1–11 of the '107 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Yahoo has known of the '107 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the date of issuance of the patent.

- 12. Yahoo has and continues to contributorily infringe. Yahoo has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., question and answer services on the Internet] and related services that provide question and answer services across the Internet such as to cause infringement of claims 1–11 of the '107 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Yahoo has known of the '107 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the date of issuance of the patent.
- 13. Yahoo has caused and will continue to cause NETSOC damage by direct and indirect infringement of (including inducing infringement of) the claims of the '107 patent.

IV. JURY DEMAND

NETSOC hereby requests a trial by jury on issues so triable by right.

V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, NETSOC prays for relief as follows:

- a. enter judgment that Defendant has infringed the claims of the '107 patent through YAHOO.COM;
- b. award NETSOC damages in an amount sufficient to compensate it for Defendant's infringement of the '107 patent, in an amount no less than a reasonable royalty or lost profits, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest and costs under 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- award NETSOC an accounting for acts of infringement not presented at trial and an award
 by the Court of additional damage for any such acts of infringement;
- d. declare this case to be "exceptional" under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and award NETSOC its attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action;

- e. declare Defendant's infringement to be willful and treble the damages, including attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action and an increase in the damage award pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- f. a decree addressing future infringement that either (i) awards a permanent injunction enjoining Defendant and its agents, servants, employees, affiliates, divisions, and subsidiaries, and those in association with Defendant from infringing the claims of the Patents-in-Suit, or (ii) awards damages for future infringement in lieu of an injunction in an amount consistent with the fact that for future infringement the Defendant will be an adjudicated infringer of a valid patent, and trebles that amount in view of the fact that the future infringement will be willful as a matter of law; and
- g. award NETSOC such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramey & Schwaller, LLP

By: /s/ David Hoffman
David Hoffman
17 Battery Place, Suite 1308
New York, New York 10004
(212) 488-1771 (telephone)
(832) 900-4941 (fax)
dhoffman@rameyfirm.com

William P. Ramey, III (motion *pro hac vice* pending) Texas Bar No. 24027643 5020 Montrose Blvd., Suite 750 Houston, Texas 77006 (713) 426-3923 (telephone) (832) 900-4941 (fax) wramey@rameyfirm.com

Attorneys for NetSoc, LLC